

09/902,090

REMARKS

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the analysis contained in the Examination Report dated March 18, 2003. The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for noting that claims 6, and 9-11 would be allowable if rewritten.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons noted in the official action. The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for noting that the wording in claims 1 and 9, which relates to how the integrally formed retaining caps extended in opposed relation into each of the openings, was unclear and suggesting suitable wording to remedy the informality. The Applicant adopted the Examiner's suggestions for amending the claims and the presently pending claims are now believed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention, thereby overcoming all of the raised § 112, second paragraph, rejections.

Claims 1-5, 7 and 8 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Furlong et al. '502. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses the raised anticipatory rejection in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection is addressed by canceling claims 5 and 6 while the allowable subject matter of claim 6, along with intervening claim 5, is incorporated into claim 1. In view of such amendment, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In view of the indicated allowability of claim 9 and as claims 12-24 all depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 9, the Applicant respectfully requests reinstatement and allowance of those claims as well at this time.

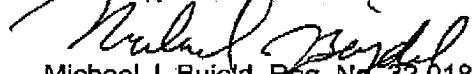
If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

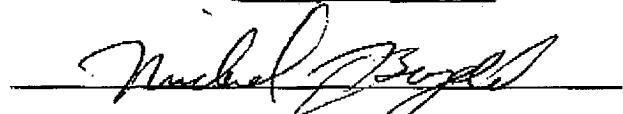
In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on: August 7, 2003.



Michael J. Bujold

Type name of person signing certificate